

BOOK REVIEWS

PIERRE DELFORGE. 2006. **Orchids of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.** (ISBN-13: 9780881927542; ISBN-10: 0881927546, hbk.). Timber Press Inc, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax). \$39.95, 640 pp., 1270 color photos plus several line drawings and watercolors, 5" × 7½" (190 × 125 mm).

Delforge's previous works have always been well received as they should be. His work is meticulous and although limited to brief entries for each species, as complete as space permits. The gallery of photographs is mind-boggling. This current book is no exception. It combines the best of all of his other books and presents a single volume that is both an update of previous works and much new material as well as needed revisions both taxonomically and nomenclaturally. Technically a 3rd edition of his original work of the same name it has more than 200 additional pages than previous French editions.

Introductory chapters on basic orchid information—atomy, life cycles, reproduction and orchid identification are detailed and easy to understand with many excellent graphics. The following chapters of species accounts are broken into four chapters and arranged by subtribes and the genera arranged systematically. Although this arrangement is excellent for the botanist, it does make it difficult to find a specific genus or species quickly without consulting the index. Because of the large geographic area covered by the book, one must read through the descriptions very carefully to find those species that might occur where the reader is exploring. This is not necessarily a negative aspect of the book but does force the reader into reviewing many more species.

A few synonyms are given with each species entry and fortunately they are in the index as well. Several taxonomical and nomenclatural points should be mentioned.

The genus *Listera* is nested into *Neottia*, *Pseudorchis* into *Gymnadenia*. *Coeloglossum* is maintained in its own genus rather than in *Dactylorhiza*. Hybrids are treated extensively as are aberrant and unusual forms such as albinos, white-flowered forms and other various color variants.

The largest genera treated—*Epipactis*, *Dactylorhiza*, *Orchis*, and *Ophrys* are as complete as they can possibly be with extensive illustrations to help sort out the oft-confusing species and forms. *Ophrys* alone has over 250 pages devoted to the genus!

Pierre Delforge has studied orchids, observed the evolution of their habitats, and protected them for more than 35 years in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East and is an expert on European orchids for the IUCN—the World Conservation Union.

I can recommend this new work with no reservations and at \$39.95 it is one of the best buys in orchid literature available!—*Paul Martin Brown, Author, Wild Orchids of Florida, The Wild Orchids of North America, Wild Orchids of the Southeastern United States, 10896 SW 90th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34481, U.S.A., naorchid@aol.com.*

Note.—This title has been published in Great Britain by A & C Black (ISBN 9780713675252) and cooperatively with Timber Press in the North America. They have different cover images but the body of the books is the same.

MARY TOOMEY with EVERETT LEEDS and CHARLES CHESHIRE. 2006. **Timber Press Pocket Guide to Clematis.** (ISBN 0-88192-814-3, pbk.). Timber Press Inc, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax). \$19.95, 232 pp., 319 color photographs, 1 b/w map of USDA Hardiness Zone, 1 full color map of European Hardiness Zones, 5¾" × 8¾".

The famous Timber Press Pocket Guides are always first-rate and this particular one does not disappoint. From its soft, pliable cover with rounded corners that one can fit into a large pocket, purse, or garden trug, to its brilliant color photography and design; what's not to like. It must have been a daunting task, indeed, to condense the selection of Clematis from 550 in the original beautifully published version, *An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Clematis* (2001) to the 300 in this 'pocket' version, but what a success! Diminutive in size but packed with brilliant full-color photography of each of the 300 stunning Clematis cultivars that any gardener would be proud to have in their garden. Though packed with brilliance, it is not busy looking. Just the right amount of margin and leading between the lines of san serif type to give ease of readability and space around the photos. Complete with Nursery Sources for 16 countries, a Glossary, Further Reading resources, and Index.

The authors' premise is to have the gardener carefully select the right Clematis for the proper locations in the garden and Clematis for specific purposes. "*Careful selection, cultivation, judicious pruning—never let that tax your mind—along with a modicum of patience and diligence will pay handsome dividends.*"—*Linny Heagy, Linny/Designer, Illustrator, email: a0005835@airmail.net.*